



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1
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BOSTON, MA 02109-3912

January 27, 2021

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Richard Doucette
Federal Aviation Administration
1200 District Avenue
Burlington, Massachusetts 01803

RE: Nantucket Memorial Airport Capital Improvement Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment, Nantucket, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Doucette:

We are writing in response to the December 15, 2020 Notice of Availability for the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Nantucket Memorial Airport Capital Improvement Plan project in Nantucket, Massachusetts. We submit the following response to the EA in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act.

According to the EA the proposed projects are intended to help the airport meet current and future aviation demand through efficiency and safety improvements. The proposed projects include decommissioning Runway 12-30 and converting it to Taxiway C, relocation of Taxiway G, work on the south apron, construction of a high speed taxiway, work to rehabilitate or reconstruct Runway 6-24 and other work associated with ground service, crew quarters and the airport perimeter fence and road. According to the EA none of the proposed projects will result in changes to the types or number of flights or flight patterns of aircraft using the airport.

We appreciate your coordination with our agency in advance of the publication of the EA. Our scoping comments identified a number of issues to be addressed in the EA including impacts to the sole source aquifer, surface water discharges, impacts to public and private wells, groundwater monitoring, water quality impacts and a suggestion that the project be coordinated closely with the local water department. We found the EA responsive to our comments and questions.

In conjunction with our review of the EA we also reviewed the project under the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Section 1424(e). The SDWA provides EPA authority to review proposed projects within Sole Source Aquifers. Any project receiving Federal funding in a designated sole source aquifer requires EPA review. In this case EPA conducted a Sole Source Aquifer Review of the Nantucket Memorial Airport project because a portion of the funding for the project is being supplied by the Federal Aviation Administration. The Cape Cod Sole Source

Aquifer was designated on July 13, 1982 (Federal Register Notice: 47 FR 30282). Information regarding this designation is at <https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/drinkwater/solecape.html>.

Provided that the project meets all applicable federal, state and local environmental protection standards, EPA does not believe that the Nantucket Memorial Airport projects will pose a significant threat of ground water contamination which could pose a health hazard. The EA and information provided by you and your consultant (McFarland Johnson) have addressed our Sole Source Aquifer questions to date. Please note, however, that EPA reserves the right to inspect and/or take enforcement action pursuant to the Clean Water Act, and other applicable laws. This includes the right to seek penalties, for any past, current, or future violations detected at the Nantucket Memorial Airport.

We would like to be kept informed about any activities that might affect the Sole Source Aquifer during project construction or in the future. Please communicate directly with the EPA Region 1 Sole Source Aquifer Coordinator, Kira Jacobs. She can be reached at jacobs.kira@epa.gov or 617-918-1817.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the EA for the Nantucket Memorial Airport Capital Improvement Plan project. Please contact me at 671-918-1025 with any questions regarding our comments.

Sincerely,



Timothy Timmermann
Director Office of Environmental Review